

# NELR recent developments

gigalitres of drinking water for the medium term future.

See: [http://www.watercorporation.com.au/\\_files/InfrastructureProjects/Pilbara\\_Industry\\_Briefing\\_Nov\\_15.PPT.pdf](http://www.watercorporation.com.au/_files/InfrastructureProjects/Pilbara_Industry_Briefing_Nov_15.PPT.pdf)

## **Kimberley Wilderness Parks**

The WA Government has announced the formation of the Kimberley Wilderness Parks, including the state's largest interconnected system of marine and terrestrial parks covering more than 3.5m hectares, an area of land more than half the size of Tasmania. Created under the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy, Premier Colin Barnett said the new parks would include four new marine parks, a new national park and additional conservation reserves.

The Kimberley Wilderness Parks will contain more than half of the known terrestrial bird and animal species found throughout the Kimberley and will protect a range of marine and terrestrial animals including rare and endangered turtles, Humpback and Minke whales, rock wallabies and Northern Quolls.

The WA Environment Minister also released the indicative management plan for the proposed Camden Sound Marine Park, the establishment of which the Government committed to in 2009. The current proposal for the Camden Sound Marine Park is almost twice the size of the proposal originally envisaged by the Government and would

protect the largest Humpback whale nursery in the southern hemisphere.

The indicative management plan for the Camden Sound Marine Park is open for consultation comment until 1 February 2001, with management plans for the North Kimberley Marine Parks to be made available for public comment next year. Mrs Faragher said that consultation with the community would be an important part of the planning process for the Camden Sound Marine Park particularly because the park will be multiple use, allowing for the needs of the fishing, pearling, aquaculture, resources and tourism sectors.

Recreational fishing will be allowed in marine park waters, with the exception of sanctuary zones, and commercial fishing will be allowed to continue except within sanctuary zones and wilderness fishing zones. Trawling will be excluded from the whale protection zone.

Together with the North Kimberley Marine Parks, the Camden Sound Marine Park will be managed as the Great Kimberley Marine Park, which will cover more than 17% of WA waters, making it Australia's second largest coastal marine park behind the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The Government will release further initiatives under the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy over the coming months. More information is available at [www.dec.wa.gov.au/kimberleywildernessparks](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/kimberleywildernessparks)

## **QUEENSLAND**

**Patrick Vuleta**

### **State Planning Policy 4/10 – Healthy Waters**

In October 2010 the Queensland Government published *State Planning Policy 4/10–Healthy Waters (SPP 4/10)*, to commence 28 February 2011. State planning policies guide the creation of local government planning instruments. If a planning instrument does not reflect a state planning policy, the policy will override the instrument.

*SPP 4/10* is based on *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009 (EP Water)*, a subordinate

law under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld)*. EP Water specifies environmental values for waterways within Queensland. *SPP 4/10* seeks to achieve these values by bringing their consideration into the development assessment process.

*SPP 4/10* will apply to development applications for urban developments of at least six residential lots and more than 2500m<sup>2</sup>. It will also apply to development applications for a material change of use, reconfiguration of a lot or operational works

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involving waste water discharge.

*SPP 4/10* will be implemented at first by a development assessment code. This code seeks to minimise adverse impacts on the quality of urban stormwater, minimise point source waste water discharge, and maintain water quality in artificial waterways such as urban lakes. The Queensland Government expects local planning schemes will be updated with equivalent provisions, but where these do not provide at least equal protection to water quality, the code in *SPP 4/10* will prevail.

*SPP 4/10* does not apply to small-scale development such as single lots or dwellings. Building regulations and the Queensland Development Code continue to address the impacts of these developments.

## ***State Planning Policy 5/10 – Air, Noise and Hazardous Materials***

The Queensland Government has published *State Planning Policy 5/10–Air, Noise and Hazardous Materials (SPP 5/10)*. *SPP 5/10* aims to ensure planning schemes take into account the location of industrial land uses to reduce adverse impacts on the public, and how industrial land uses will be protected from encroachment by other uses. These issues are currently addressed on a case-by-case basis as they arise for individual development applications. However, the Queensland Government believes planning schemes should provide firmer guidance to decision makers.

*SPP 5/10* provides guidance on both preparing planning schemes and assessing development. Planning schemes must ensure that industrial land uses are directed away from sensitive land uses, must protect industry land uses from sensitive land uses, and must ensure that intensive animal industries are directed away from urban areas. Sensitive land uses are those uses with consistent human habitation, such as residential dwellings, offices and child care centres.

Existing industrial areas may not be able to meet the objectives of *SPP 5/10* due to their location near sensitive land uses. Where this is the case, planning scheme overlays or precincts must be used to create awareness of potential impacts and

of the requirements to manage these impacts.

The development assessment provisions of *SPP 5/10* apply to development applications for sensitive land uses. Development must be designed to protect human health, wellbeing and amenity from the impacts of industry, and development must not compromise existing or future industrial development. *SPP 5/10* contains a model development assessment code, and the Queensland Government expects that local planning schemes will be updated to reflect its provisions.

## ***Climate Change in Queensland: What the Science is Telling Us 2010***

The Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence has released *Climate Change in Queensland: What the Science is Telling Us 2010*. This is the second edition of the report, the first having been released in 2008.

The report discusses the science on which climate change policies have been based. It also updates estimates of climate change impacts to take into account new studies since the first edition. The first edition was largely based on the reports *IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4)* (IPCC 2007 a–c) and *Climate Change in Australia–Technical Report 2007* (CSIRO & BoM 2007). The second edition notes that while AR4 remains authoritative for Queensland climate change policy, considerable new information has come to light since its publication.

### *Key scientific findings*

The report's key scientific findings support claims that climate change is now occurring at the upper levels of prior predictions:

- sea levels are rising faster than expected and the AR4 estimate of a 026–079 metre sea rise by 2100 may be a significant underestimate
- the last decade (2000–09) was the hottest on record with temperatures 058 degrees Celsius higher than the 1961–1990 average
- Queensland regions can expect increased temperatures of between 10 degrees Celsius and 22 degrees Celsius by 2050

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- rainfall is expected to change, with a potential decrease by up to 7% in central Queensland by 2050
- a 3–5% decrease in rainfall in the south-east Queensland region is projected
- more frequent hot days and warm nights with less frequent cold days and cold nights

## *Human settlements and infrastructure policy recommendations*

The report notes that cyclones and flooding will be the main climate change risks for settlements and infrastructure. Therefore, policy should be aimed at:

- improving building codes to strengthen buildings in new cyclone risk areas
- planning decisions and building standards should reflect a building lifespan of up to 200 years
- design and loading codes should be based on a risk assessment process to ensure the potential impacts of climate change are factored into design of buildings and infrastructure
- consideration of impacts on supporting infrastructure services from changing land uses

The report also notes that current data is not accurate enough to plan extensively for impacts of sea level rise, storm surge and flooding. Policy and legislation will need to be regularly reviewed and revised to reflect changing science.

## *Water policy recommendations*

The report warns that water supplies will be adversely affected by climate change. This will be a large problem for Queensland's growing population, especially as most of the population growth is occurring in areas which do not receive the majority of Queensland's rainfall. It recommends that water supplies be diversified to provide an increased capture of rainfall when it occurs.

## *Terrestrial biodiversity policy recommendations*

Climate change will have the greatest impacts on species which are already endangered. Therefore, the report recommends a policy of reducing existing

threats to endangered species to give these species a greater chance of adapting to climate change.

## *Marine biodiversity policy recommendations*

As with terrestrial biodiversity, the report recommends steps to reduce existing threats on marine species. However, not enough information is known about the temperature thresholds at which significant marine biodiversity loss will occur. Therefore, the report stresses the need for further research on which to base future policy.

## *Primary industries policy recommendations*

Land clearing has been a significant factor in Australia's recent droughts and changing climate. Climate change will exacerbate what is already occurring, with greater extremes of rainfall and drought events. Policy needs to ensure adequate land cover is maintained in future. In addition, the report recommends greater education of primary producers about the effects of climate change, so that these producers can better adapt to the changing climate.

## *Health policy recommendations*

In addition to heat-related illnesses, climate change will also increase the incidence of disease. Many diseases become more common with increasing temperature. Therefore, the report recommends greater efforts on controlling infectious diseases, supplying vaccines, surveillance of risk factors such as mosquitoes, and better health education.

## *Emergency management policy recommendations*

There is considerable uncertainty about what climate change will mean for extreme weather events. While more research needs to be done, the report recommends as a general policy that community resilience to emergencies be improved.